

REMARKS

Claims 19-20, 24, 26-29, and 31 have been amended. Claims 12-17, 19-29 and 31 remain pending. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications. Please reconsider the above-referenced application in light of the amendments and following remarks.

At the outset, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 12-17 are in condition for allowance. Claims 19-23 have been amended to properly depend from claim 12, and should now also be in condition for allowance along with claims 12-17.

Applicant also respectfully submits that amended claims 24-29 and 31 now include allowable subject matter similar to that recited in independent claim 12. Specifically, claims 24-29 and 31 recite current emitters comprising sides, wherein the sides are surrounded at least in part by an insulating layer. As indicated by the Office Action, the prior art does not teach or suggest "wherein at least a portion of the sides are surrounded by an insulating layer." (Office Action, pg. 4).

As indicated by Applicant's specification, "insulating 112 is provided around the sides of the current emitter 116 so that current does not radiate out of the sides of the current emitter 116 and provide cross-talk to nearby current emitters." (Applicant's specification, pg. 5, ll. 12-15 and FIG. 2). As a result, "insulating layer 112 helps direct the current to the tip 118 of the current emitter 116." (Applicant's specification, pg. 5, ll. 15-16 and FIG. 2). The prior art of record does not disclose the claimed feature.

Claims 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to maintain proper dependency from independent claim 12. Claims 21-23 depend from claim 20. As a result, the § 112, second paragraph rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 24-29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.: 6,086,442 (“Sandhu”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, Sandhu does not disclose current emitters comprising sides, wherein the sides are surrounded at least in part by an insulating layer. This fact is underscored by the Office Action’s acknowledgment that the prior art fails to teach “wherein at least a portion of the sides are surrounded by an insulating layer.” (Office Action, pg. 4).

For example, in Sandhu’s FIGS. 1-3, a current emitter 48 is formed on conductive material 48. An insulative layer 50 is merely used to support an electrically conductive extraction grid 52 (FIGS. 1-3), which is formed *separate* from current emitter 48. Sandhu’s emitter 48 sides are *not* surrounded at least in part by insulative layer 50.

As such, Sandhu fails to disclose a field emission display device comprising, *inter alia*, “at least one current emitter having sides; and a substrate having a phosphor coating . . . and said current emitter comprising a surface-treated focal point . . . [which] comprises nitrogen, and wherein at least a portion of the sides of the at least one current emitter is surrounded at least in part by an insulating layer,” as recited in claim 24.

Sandhu fails to disclose a field emission display device comprising, *inter alia*, "an array of current emitters, wherein each current emitter has sides; and a substrate having a phosphor coating . . . said current emitters each comprising an emission focal point . . . [which] comprises nitrogen, and wherein at least a portion of the sides of the current emitters are surrounded at least in part by an insulating layer," as recited in claim 26.

Sandhu fails to disclose a field emission display device comprising, *inter alia*, "at least one current emitter with sides; and a substrate having a phosphor coating . . . said current emitter comprising a top and bottom surface, said top surface comprising nitrogen, and wherein at least a portion of the sides of the at least one current emitter is surrounded at least in part by an insulating layer," as recited in claim 27.

Sandhu fails to disclose a field emission display device comprising, *inter alia*, "a current emitter having a top and bottom surface, wherein said top surface is a surface-treated top surface . . . [that] comprises nitrogen; and a substrate having a phosphor coating in at least one region positioned to receive electrons emitted by said current emitter, wherein said current emitter further comprises sides below said top surface, wherein at least a portion of said sides are surrounded at least in part by an insulating layer," as recited in claim 28.

Sandhu fails to disclose a field emission display device comprising, *inter alia*, "a plurality of current emitters each having a top and bottom surface, wherein said each top surface is a surface-treated top surface . . . [that] comprises nitrogen; and a substrate having a phosphor coating in at least one region positioned to receive electrons emitted by said current emitters, wherein each current emitter further comprises sides below said top surface, wherein at least a portion of said sides are surrounded at least in part by an insulating layer," as recited in claim 29.

Similarly, Sandhu fails to disclose a current emitter comprising, *inter alia*, "a top and bottom surface . . . wherein said top surface is a treated top surface comprising nitrogen, wherein said current emitter further comprises sides with at least a portion of said sides surrounded at least in part by an insulating layer," as recited in claim 31.

Claim 25 depends from claim 24 and should be allowable along with claim 24 for at least the reasons provided above, and on its own merits.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to review and pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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